

HOW TO... Move Windows to a new hard disk

Copying your existing operating system and settings to a new hard disk is easy with the help of Paragon Hard Disk Manager and David Fearon's guidance

PARAGON HARD DISK MANAGER 6.0



Managing, copying and backing up partitions can be a process fraught with difficulty. Paragon Hard Disk Manager, on this month's cover disc, makes it relatively easy, though. It has many powerful advanced options, but there are also step-by-step wizards to guide you through common operations.

We'll show you how to use Hard Disk Manager to migrate your Windows installation, including all settings and software, to a new hard disk. The result will be a copy of your original Windows hard disk, but with more free space.

1 Start Hard Disk Manager and you'll see a view of the hard disks on your system, with the used and free space represented by coloured bars. The key at the top lets you know the types of the partitions on the disk, but for our purposes this isn't terribly important.

2 To start the migration process, click on Wizards from the top menu. You'll see a range of options, including backing up and merging partitions, but we want the Copy Hard Disk option. Select that and the wizard will start. Click Next to get past the Welcome notice and you'll see a window asking you to select the hard disk to copy. The main system disk will probably be selected, but if not, click it and hit Next.

3 Now choose the destination hard disk. If there are only two disks in your system, Hard Disk Manager will have chosen the correct one by default; if not, click the disk you want and hit Next.

4 You're now presented with a more complex dialog box, but the default options will be fine for 99 per cent of cases. For our purposes – moving a Windows installation from an old hard disk to a new, larger one – we need to make sure that the Copy Data and Resize Partitions Proportionally options are ticked.

It's also worth ticking the two verification options to make sure data is copied across intact, but bear in mind that this will take longer. The Copy all sectors, one to one option will do just that, even copying left-over fragments of deleted files no longer in use and completely empty areas of the disk. This is useful if you want an identical copy of the source disk, but it's not usually necessary, so it's best to leave it unticked. Click Next.

5 You're now presented with a summary of the operations you've chosen. In this example we're copying the contents of a 74GB disk (the top bar) to a new 300GB model (the bottom bar). The lighter blue represents the

percentage of free space on the old and new disks, and you can see the difference that having the larger disk will make: we'll now have around 230GB of free space on our Windows disk.

By default, Hard Disk Manager expands the partition it's copying so that it fills the new disk, which is what we want in this instance. If you want some space left unallocated on the new disk ready for other partitions, you can drag the slider at the bottom of this dialog across to the left to reduce the size of the new partition that Hard Disk Manager creates. You can't, of course, reduce it to be smaller than the amount of data on the source disk. In our case, this gives us a minimum size of 53.4GB.

6 Click Next and the wizard is complete. You'll now be taken back into the main Hard Disk Manager interface. That's not the end of the process, though. Hard Disk Manager queues up the operations you want to perform and no changes have actually been made to your disks yet. To complete the process, you need to commit the changes by selecting Apply Changes from the Operations menu, then hitting Yes.

If you're worried that you may have done something wrong, you can review what's going to happen by selecting View Pending Changes from this menu beforehand. **CS**

